

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 10800 01 OF 02 151630Z

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02

OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15

TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 /076 W
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O 151621Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2882

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 10800

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: TRILATERAL TALKS; U.S. SUPPLEMENTARY
GUIDANCE

REF: (A) STATE 165670 (B) STATE 156821

1. WE SPOKE WITH NIXON OF FCO ON JULY 15 ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON SCHEDULED JULY 18 TRILATERAL TALKS. HE SAID UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON IS BEING INSTRUCTED TO ADVISE USG THAT UK ACCEPTS BRUSSELS AS VENUE FOR JULY 18 AFTERNOON MEETING.

2. NIXON READ PART OF UK EMBASSY REPORT ON WILBERFORCE MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS REPORTED REF. A. NIXON NOTED THAT WE SEEMED TO BE HAVING A MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT STATUS OF UK PAPER. HE SAID UK WISHES TO MAKE IT CLEAR THEY WILL NOT INTRODUCE PAPER INTO SPC UNLESS U.S.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 10800 01 OF 02 151630Z

AGREES. IF U.S. MAKES NO COMMENT UK WILL NOT MOVE. UK

WISHES TO INTRODUCE PAPER ON SPC BECAUSE THEY SEE A NEED TO EASE THE EMBARRASSMENT IN THAT FORUM WHICH IS CAUSED BY LACK OF CONSIDERATION OF OBVIOUS QUESTIONS RELATING TO MBFR OPTION III. THEY ALSO HOPED TO DO THIS IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE SPC CONSIDERATION OF ENTIRE ISSUE.

3. NIXON ALSO GAVE US COMMENTS ON U.S. SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE CONTAINED REF. B. UK HOPES THAT TRILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WILL RESULT IN REVISED DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE FOR EARLY SUBMISSION TO NATO. BRITISH INTENTION IN MAKING THESE COMMENTS IS TO HOPE TO MAKE THE DRAFT AS COMPREHENSIVE AND CLEAR AS POSSIBLE.

4. GENERAL COMMENT ON PAPER IS THAT IN ONE OR TWO PLACES THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE APPEARS TO DUPLICATE THE MAIN GUIDANCE ALREADY SUBMITTED TO NATO. BRITISH FEAR THIS REDUNDANCY MAY CAUSE CONFUSION. THEY FEEL BEST FORMAT FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE WOULD BE TO FOLLOW THE ORDER OF THE MAIN GUIDANCE SUBJECT BY SUBJECT. THE UK WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SECTION OF THE PAPER CALLED "DEFINITIONS AND LIMITATIONS". THIS WOULD HAVE PARAGRAPHS ON EACH ELEMENT INCLUDING A DEFINITION OF WHAT THE ELEMENT INCLUDES AND STATEMENT OF THE EXACT LIMITATION TO BE APPLIED. NIXON NOTED THAT THIS IS A SMALL DRAFTING POINT AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THAT LIGHT.

5. ONE SPECIFIC COMMENT IS THAT UK WONDERS IF PARAGRAPH 3 OF SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE IS NECESSARY SINCE IT APPEARS TO DUPLICATE STATEMENT IN MAIN GUIDANCE. IF PARAGRAPH 3 IS INCLUDED UK WOULD WISH WORD "ILLUSTRATIVELY" ELIMINATED IN LINE WITH BRITISH POSITION THAT OPTION 3 SHOULD BUY ACTUAL COMMON CEILING.

6. IN PARAGRAPH 4 BRITISH HAVE TWO SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS. FIRST IS THAT U.S. FORMULATION SEEMS TO IMPLY THAT SOVIET AIR MANPOWER IS INCLUDED IN PHASE I. THIS IS NOT YET AGREED BY NATO. SECONDLY, U.S. FORMULATION IMPLIES THAT PHASE I CEILING WOULD BE DICTATED BY ACTUAL NUMBER OF FORCES PRESENT IN NGA WHEN PHASE I AGREED. DATA MAY,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LONDON 10800 01 OF 02 151630Z

HOWEVER, BE PICKED AT SOME DIFFERENT TIME. UK SUGGESTS HANDLING THIS PROBLEM BY FOLLOWING REWORDING. "A NUMERICAL CEILING SHOULD BE PLACED ON SOVIET GROUND FORCE MANPOWER IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AT THE LEVEL REACHED AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL IN PHASE I OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY OF 5 DIVISIONS INCLUDING SOME 68,000 MEN. A NUMERICAL CEILING SHOULD BE PLACED ON U.S. GROUND MANPOWER IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AT THE LEVEL REACHED

AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL IN PHASE I OF 29,000 U.S. GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL. EXCEPTIONS WOULD BE AGREED FOR ROTATION, TRAINING AND EXERCISES." LAST SENTENCE IN THIS FORMULATION TAKES CARE OF BRITISH CONCERN THAT EXCEPTIONS SHOULD BE SPELLED OUT.

7. ON PARAGRAPH 5 THE BRITISH HOPE THE ALLIANCE CAN PROCEED WITH THE STUDY OF THIS QUESTION AS SOON AS

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PAGE 01 LONDON 10800 02 OF 02 151626Z

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 10800

POSSIBLE.

8. IN PARAGRAPHS 6 AND 9 OF THE GUIDANCE THE BRITISH FEEL THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR A MECHANISM FOR THE TREATMENT OF A FOLLOW-ON SYSTEM.

9. ON PARAGRAPH 8 THE UK IS KEEPING ITS POSITION OPEN ON THE DEFINITION OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR COMPONENT BUT NIXON HOPES UK WILL HAVE COMMENTS JULY 18.

10. IN PARAGRAPHS 6 AND 10 THE BRITISH PREFER THAT LIMITATIONS SHOULD BE RESTRICTED ONLY TO MAIN BATTLE TANKS "IN COMBAT UNITS". THIS POINT IS DESIGNED TO HELP U.S. RESERVE TANK PROBLEM AND HAS BEEN MADE IMPLICITLY IN UK PAPER ON CEILING AND CONSTRAINTS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 10800 02 OF 02 151626Z

11. THE UK IS RESERVING ITS POSITION ON NSWP ARMAMENTS LIMITATIONS FOR THE TIME BEING.

12. NIXON STRESSED THAT COMMENTS ON SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE BEING GIVEN THROUGH LONDON CHANNEL TO EMPHASIZE THEIR INFORMAL NATURE. THEY DID NOT WISH TO PRESENT THEM IN WASHINGTON WHERE IT MIGHT BE TAKEN THAT UK WAS MAKING A POINTED DEMARCHE IN WASHINGTON.

RICHARDSON

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